(c) to (e) In September, 2007, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment had decided to continue the Post Matric Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste students during the Eleventh Five Year Plan, with the modifications that:—

(i) in case of professional courses, it is available only to those students who are admitted against 'free seats' whether in Government or private institutions, and

(ii) in case of private professional institutions, where admission is on the basis of 12th standard examination marks, there shall be a bench mark of 60% for availing the scholarship.

The above modifications have been withdrawn by the above mentioned Ministry on 28.02.2008.

Councils and Institutions for Training and Research

984. SHR1 PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of councils and institutions for training and research in the field of education controlled by the Central Government;

(b) the details regarding internal marks to be given in the P.T.C. and B.Ed, courses for primary and secondary teachers; and

(c) the details of agencies which are empowered to give recognition to P.T.C. and B.Ed, colleges at the State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) There are several institutions under Ministry of Human Resource Development which impart training and research in the field of education. These, i*nter-alia,* include National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE), National Council of Educational Research & Training, (NCERT), National University for Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), National Institutions of Technical Teachers' Training and Research (NITTTR), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), etc.

(b) and (c) NCTE is a Statutory Body set up under the NCTE Act with a view to achieving planned and co-ordinated development of teacher education throughout the country, the regulation and proper maintenance of norms and standards in the teacher education system. The NCTE through the four regional committees under it—the Northern Regional Committee, the Western Regional Committee, the Southern Regional Committee and the Eastern Regional Committee is authorized under the NCTE Act to grant recognition to the institutions for undertaking various teacher training courses in the country, the accordance with the extant rules and regulations.

Popularity of courses for Urdu and Punjabi

985. SHRI TARLOCHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) how many candidates appeared in Urdu subject in CBSE Examination in 2007 and how many students appeared in Urdu as Elective subject in CBSE Senior Secondary Examination;

(b) how many students appeared in Urdu course-B and Urdu Core course in CBSE Secondary Examination in 2007;

(c) the details regarding the related information for all the courses for Punjabi subjects taken by the students;

(d) why the CBSE is not starting A and B courses for secondary level and Core and Elective at senior secondary level for Punjabi language; and

(e) whether it is a fact that there is more demand in Punjabi language by the students, as compared to Urdu language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) The details of the number of students registered in Urdu as a subject for classes X and XII examinations, 2007 conducted by Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) are given below:—

	Subject	No. of candidates registered
Class X	Urdu Course (A)	2777
	Urdu Course (B)	3303
	TOTAL:	6080
Class XII	Urdu (Core)	1096
	Urdu (Elective)	234
	TOTAL:	1330

(c) The number of students registered for Punjabi language as subject in classes X and **XII** Examinations. 2007 conducted by CBSE were 37896 and 4041 respectively.

(d)CBSE does not have A and B Courses in Punjabi language at the secondary level so as to be at per with the State Boards in respect of regional languages. It also does not have core and elective in Punjabi language at senior secondary level to bring uniformity in approach with regard to regional languages and to remove confusion among the schools and students.

(e) For classes X and XII Examination, 2007 conducted by CBSE, more students had regiseted for Punjabi language than for Urdu language.

Corporal punishment in Schools

986. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of corporal punishment in schools, particularly in cities, continue unabated, inspite of orders to the country;

(b) if so, the number of such cases that have come to the notice of Government during 2007 and 2008. upto 1st March, 2008 where serious physical harm has been caused to the concerned students; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the concerned school managements?